

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 47, 49 and 50 have been amended. Claims 8, 9, 24-30, and 47-52 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph Rejection:

At page 2 of the Office Action, claim 47-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second Paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 47 and 49 have been amended as set forth above to properly depend from claims 24 and 25, respectively and claim 50 has been amended to depend from claim 49.

The Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejections:

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 24-26 are provisionally rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 22-24 of both co-pending applications 10/834,864 and 10/835,435.

The present application has a filing date of August 29, 2000 and the co-pending applications 10/834,864 and 10/835,435 application have a filing date of April 30, 2004. No Office Action has been issued in either of the co-pending applications.

Claims 22-24 in co-pending application 10/835,435 were cancelled in a preliminary amendment included with the divisional application transmittal filed April 30, 2004, thus the rejection with respect to application 10/835,435 is moot.

After the claim amendments set forth above are entered, it is submitted that the present application will be in condition for allowance, except for the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Since at that time, the provisional obviousness type double patenting rejection would be the only rejection remaining in the application, it is respectfully requested that the provisional rejection be withdrawn and the present application passed to issue in accordance with MPEP §822.

Conclusion:

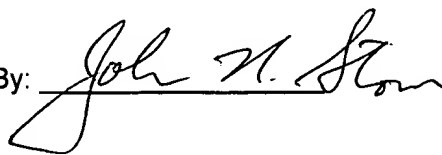
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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